

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR MASS SP UK

SUBJECT: PRESS RESPONSE TO TIMES EDITORIAL ON AIRCRAFT SALE

REF: MADRID 4763

1. FURTHER EDITORIAL ATTACKS ON NEW YORK TIMES FOR ITS CRITICISM OF US-UK-SPAIN HARRIER DEAL HAVE APPEARED IN PUEBLO, INFORMACIONES, BARCELONA'S VANGUARDIA, AND AS SECOND INSTALLMENT IN MONARCHIST DAILY ABC.

2. IN LENGTHY COMMENT: PUEBLO, ORGAN OF SYNDICAL ORGANIZATION, ACCUES TIMES OF HIPOCRISY, COUNTERING WITH CHARGE THAT US ITSELF FAVORS DICTATORSHIPS AND OPPRESSIVE FORCES IN MAINTAINING WORLD DOMINANCE. IF -- AS TIMES SUGGESTS -- US PUBLIC DISCOMFITED BY FACT US SELLS PLANES TO SPAIN WITHIN CONTEXT OF MILITARY COOPERATION, PUEBLO CONTINUES, TIMES SHOULD BE AWARE THAT SPANISH NO MORE PLEASED OVER HAVING US BASES ON THEIR SOIL AND PERMITS THEM ONLY OUT OF SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMON DEFENSE OF WEST. ECHOING THEME IN OTHER EDITORIALS, PUEBLO SUGGESTS TIMES' HANDLING OF HARRIER ISSUE MAY SPRING FROM RESENTMENT OF JEWISH BACKERS TOWARD SPAIN'S PRO-ARAB POLICY AND FROM TIMES' BASIC WISH TO UNDERCUT NIXON ADMINISTRATION.

3. SIMILARLY, ABC CHARGES THAT TIMES HAS SPURIOUSLY SEIZED ON USG HANDLING OF HARRIER SALE TO FURTHER ITS

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CURRENT ANTI-ADMINISTRATION CAMPAIGN BEGUN WITH WATERGATE.

ABC ALSO SEES THE TIMES AS MOTIVATED BY "POWERFUL OUTSIDE FORCES" THAT RESENT SPAIN'S SUPPORT FOR JUST SOLUTION TO MIDDLE-EASTERN CRISIS AND SPAIN'S ENVIABLE POSITION IN THE GROWING ENERGY CRISIS. ACCORDING ABC, TIMES SEES GRAVE DANGER IN SELLING A FEW PLANES TO PEACE-LOVING SPAIN, BUT TACITLY APPROVES SUCH SALES TO COUNTRY THAT HAS DENIED ALL POLITICAL RIGHTS TO PALESTINIANS AND HAS SEIZED TERRITORY OF OTHERS IN NAME OF NATIONAL SECURITY.

4. VANGUARDIA TAKES MORE RESTRAINED APPROACH, CITING ATTACK AS ANOTHER EXAMPLE IN LONG HISTORY OF TIMES' HOSTILITY TOWARD SPAIN. THIS ONE, IT PREDICTS, LIKE THOSE BEFORE WILL BE CRUSHED BY FORCE AND RIGOR OF TRUTH AND COMMON SENSE.

5. EVENING DAILY INFORMACIONES CHARGES THAT US HAS SUPPLIED "MORE THAN HALF" OF ARMS USED IN WARS IN THIRD WORLD SINCE 1950, THEREFORE TIMES SHOULD REPORACH MANY OTHERS BEFORE SPAIN. POINTING OUT THAT SPAIN ACCEPTS RISK BY PROVIDING BASES TO US, INFORMACIONES ASKS WHETHER IN FACT SPAIN IS CONSIDERED AN ALLY AND FRIEND OF US. IF SO, EDITORIAL CONCLUDES, SPAIN'S PURCHASE OF HARRIERS SHOULD BE VIEWED BY TIMES AS COMPLIANCE WITH US APPEAL TO FRIENDS AND ALLIES TO DO MORE IN THEIR OWN DEFENSE.
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